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A
LETTER

Humbly Inscribed to the Reverend

Dr. DESAGULIERS, L.L.D.

Chaplain to his Grace

The Duke of *Chandos*,

A N D

Fellow of the *Royal Society*.

Recommended to the Perusal of the
Inhabitants in the City and Diocese
of BRISTOL.

By JOHN TAYLOR, Surgeon and Oc-
ulist, Professor of Midwifry, &c.
late Surgeon in St. Thomas's Hospi-
tal.—Next Door to the *Bush-Tavern*
in *Corn-Street*, near the *Tolzey*,
Bristol.

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Baptized child of God and ydentity

and all children of God

are children of God

children of God and

the Word

children of God are welcome

children of God are welcome

and welcome

children of God are welcome



A LETTER, &c.

Corn-street, Bristol,

Nov. 19. 1729.

SIR,

Having had the Honour of Your personal Conference, on the Subject-Matter of this Letter: You'll pardon my Liberty in Inscribing it to You, since it tends to a Concern of the highest Importance, with regard to the Success of my present and future Undertakings.

And I possess the most grateful Satisfaction in the enjoyment of so happy an Opportunity, by having it in my Power to demonstrate to all such as are capable of Reflecting and Reasoning, that the apparent Result of my present Endeavours (when encouraged by so great a Patron) will be justly esteem'd worthy the Regard of the Judicious, and Candid Part of this Country.

These Circumstances, Sir, I observe, in order to introduce my informing You, that having (consequent on Encouragement in Practice) determin'd to settle in this City; and being sensible of the unjust Censure I at present labour under, which appears to arise from the general People's Sentiments of the Manner of my coming to Town.

I thought my self under an indispensable Necessity to use my Effort in removing such Calumnious

nious Suggestions, which in all probability must detract from that Character I endeavour to Establish.

In order to effect which, it appears necessary to publish my Sentiments of the Causes, that gave Origine to this received Opinion; which if impartially consider'd, I flatter my self, will be of sufficient Force to secure me from those Consequences that must otherwise naturally be the Event of them.

From these Considerations, Sir, I thought it incumbent on me to observe, that the Motive which induced them, were my being convinced of the variety of Diseases, that daily present in that publick manner of Practice, more particularly those of Blindness: And having (consequent on the general Approbation of a Dissertation of the EYE, I publish'd about Two Years since) determin'd to republish that Treatise with Additions, together with some Branches of Surgery, that I had wrote in order to publish: But being consciuos of my own Inability in supporting some Particulars of them from Practice; and wanting to possess an immediate Opportunity, I knew of no Method so effectual as by being present a few Months with a Gentleman who followed that Method of publick Practice, to remark such Cases as presented under his Care.

The Success of which, added to the various Opportunities I before possess'd in general Practice, with the Assistance of a regular Education, has encourag'd me to write practical Discourse s or the following Subjects, which in a short time will be ready

ready for the Pres^s, and shall be publish'd with all possible Conveniency, Viz.

A Treatise of the General Diseases of the EYE, with their Causes and Effects. To which will be added, Their Method of Cure, founded on Experimental Observations.

A General Treatise of MIDWIFRY, with regard to Practice, founded on Experience.

A Dissertation on the STONE in the Urinary Passages, with Remarks on my own Practice in the several Methods of Operating: And also a short Discourse of the Use and Abuse of Bandages.

I am not unsensible, Sir, how peculiar this Manner of Introducing my self to the Favour of the Gentlemen of this Country may in general appear; but I have Reason to believe, that on a candid Reflection of the Causes above cited, the judicious Part of them will grant me their Protection.

And, I hope, the Gentlemen of the Faculty will put no false Colours on the Design of this Epistle, by unkindly inferring that I have any secret Advantages depending on it, or that I have any View of detracting from their deserving Characters; it being too evident to want any immediate Proof, that 'tis as foreign from my Sentiments of Justice, as it is from my present Intention.

It being only to lay a just Foundation for their Esteem, as well as for the general People's; in hopes of appearing worthy the grateful Appellations of a Brother, and a Friend.

And

And that I may be defended from the Consequences of this Declaration, I believe it will be necessary to observe, that as it is generally received as an undoubted Certainty, that Love, Honour, and Praise, are the most valuable Blessings in this Life, when the Product of just meritorious Actions: And it is evident, these are the only equitable Ways to acquire these natural pleasing Ornaments.

How then can it be an Error to be Ambitious of them, when the Desire of them must arise from the most perfect Commendation that a moral Man is capable of?

Thus, Sir, have I concisely observed the Motives that obliged me to publish these Observations, which, if they should concur with Your Sentiments, they'll be sufficiently powerful to re-establish that Character I shall endeavour, in every Scene of my Practice, to be deserving of.

And if I have committed any unknown Fault in this Epistle, I must Apologize for it in the Words of a Great Man on this Occasion, *There are* (says he) *some Rules and Duties belonging to Place, Time, and Persons, which are not attainable by the force of Ingenuity, and which Custom teaches us without any Trouble: To judge of Men by the Faults they commit in this kind, before they are well instructed, is to pass Judgment of them by their Nails, or the Curl of their Hair; 'tis making a Judgment in which we shall one Day be deceived.*

To which I must add, that as there is no other way of proving the Capacity of any Man but what is to be deduced from his Language and his Actions.

— An

—An impartial Judgment therefore of the former, can't but be the most conducive Introduction to the latter, which will demonstrate his Capacity, if not his Virtues. — It being certain, that for want of the common Peoples having Ability to Judge of Causes from Effects ; they Judge Indolently, and with prejudice of Effects ; and inadvertently apply their own Causes. — which erroneous way of Judging has been the undoubted Reason of the promoting of Empiricks in all Sciences ; — while Men of Letters and Industry are obliged to apply to their Philosophy for a Remedy, and have little more to support the Demands of Nature, but what's owing to an extensive Capacity. — Whilst the other enjoy what they only know, — Sensual Pleasures.

I am,

Sir, with all Respect,

Your obedient,

Humble Servant,

JOHN TAYLOR.

CHURCH still to extort in the right Liturgie of —
the nobility & gentry of the land and towns
of England and Scotland. P. S. In Dublin, April 1711.
See also [1710] pp. 222-223.

S I R, your self good informed out to me,

HAVING been inform'd that some Persons have insinuated, that they are dubious of the Power I possess to practice in the several Branches of my Profession. — I thought it proper humbly to observe, that, if the Gentlemen of the Faculty, or any other, (whether they have Authority to enquire, or not) be desirous of being convinced of the Certainty of it, — either by doing me the Honour of a personal Conference, or by any other more general Method: — I am with all Humility prepar'd to give the Judicious and Candid part of them Satisfaction in that Particular, even to a Demonstration, by producing those Titles of Education, as will (I humbly believe) sufficiently defend me from the Consequences of such a Suggestion.

F I N I S.

